

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A database management system having the function of accessing one or more external databases, comprising:

a means for specifying whether functions in a query are executed in external databases; and

a means for determining whether data referred to in a query is confined to one external database,

wherein, when a user's query is confined to said one external database and the user specifies execution in said external database, said query is processed in said external database.

2. A query method in a database management system having the function of accessing one or more external databases, the method including the steps of:

obtaining specification about whether functions in a query are executed in external databases;

determining whether data referred to in said query is confined to one external database; and

determining whether a user specifies whether functions in said query are executed in said external database.

3. The query method in the database management system according to claim 2, including the steps of:

if a query is confined to said one database and the user specifies that all functions in said query are processed in said one external database, creating an access procedure for processing said query in said one external database; and

if the user specifies that functions in said query are

not executed in said one external database, creating an access procedure for executing said functions in a database within said database management system having the function of accessing external databases.

5           4. The query method in the database management system according to claim 2, including the step wherein the user defines whether functions in said query are executed in external databases.

10           5. The query method in the database management system according to claim 4, including the step of defining whether functions in a query can be executed in external databases, for each of types of database management systems managing external databases.

15           6. The query method in the database management system according to claim 4, wherein the step of the user defining whether functions in said query are executed in external databases includes the step of:

20           defining whether functions in a query can be executed in external databases, for each of types and versions of database management systems managing external databases.

          7. A query execution program in a database management system having the function of accessing one or more external databases, the query execution program executing the procedures for:

25           obtaining specification about whether functions in a query are executed in external databases;

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determining whether data referred to in said query is confined to one external database; and

determining whether a user specifies that functions in said query are executed in said external database.

5           8. The query execution program in the database management system according to claim 7, the query execution program executing the procedures for:

if a query is confined to said one database and the user specifies that all functions in said query are processed in said one external database, creating an access procedure for processing said query in said one external database; and

if the user specifies that functions in said query are not executed in said one external database, creating an access procedure for executing said functions in a database within said database management system having the function of accessing external databases.

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